Did You Know?

ISSUE # 7 **(September-1999)**

Federal Facilities Factsheet

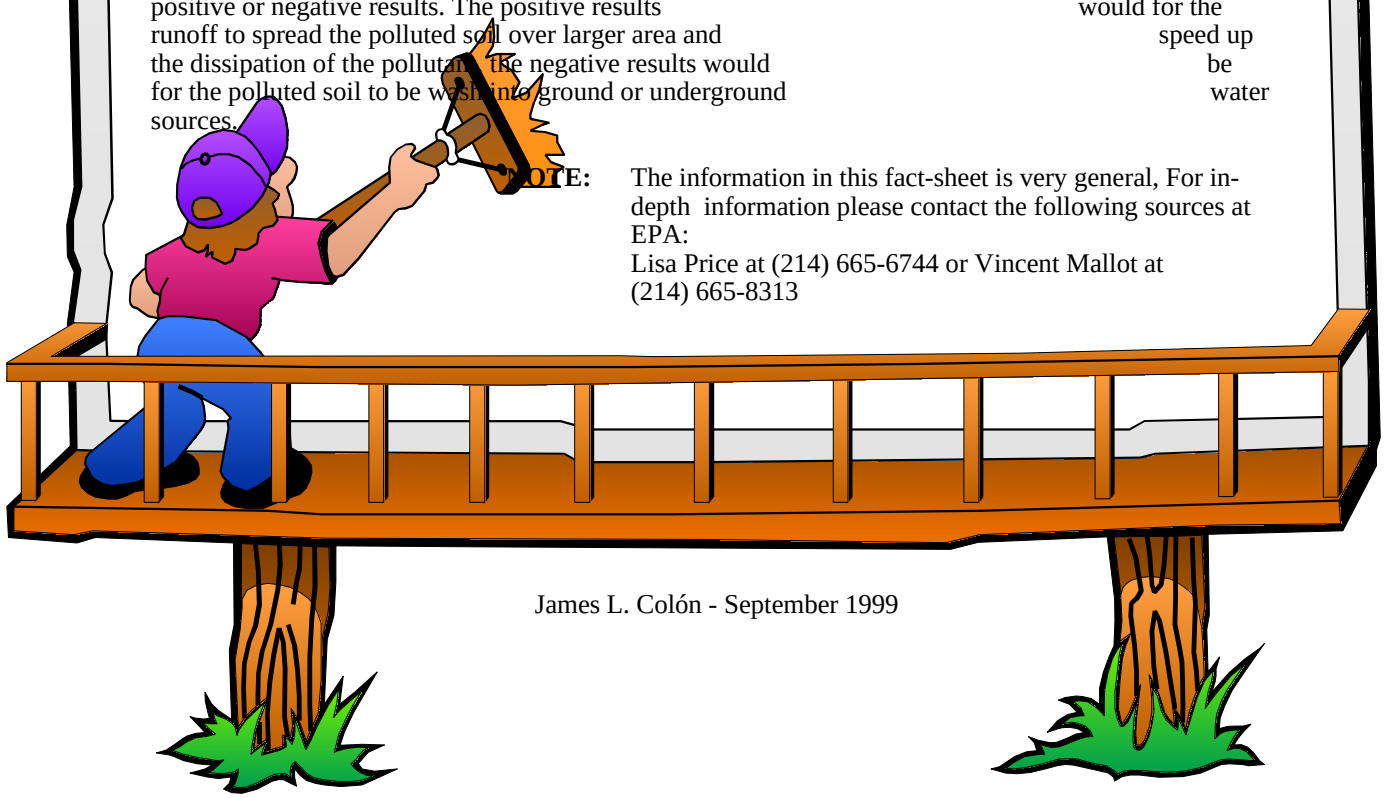
EPA - REGION 6, 6EN-XP - 1445 Ross Avenue - Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
***Web Site: www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6en/xp/enxp4b.htm**

MONITORED NATURAL ATTENUATION (MNA)

Controls on ground pollution can be applied in several ways, for example:

- The polluted source can be excavated and removed to a controlled area where it could be cleaned, or stored.
- Its effects can be reduced or nullified by the use of chemical buffers.
- Or by the easiest and most important method, not allowing it to happen.

One method that may be considered in the control of ground pollution would be "Natural Attenuation", where the pollution is left in the ground and allowed to dissipate into the soil or be absorbed harmlessly by the surface vegetation. This method would work best in areas away from watersheds and communities, and where the pollutant has stopped migrating. Natural Attenuation is not the ultimate cure for pollution prevention, but an alternative method to be used along with other methods presently in use. One drawback in using this method is having to monitor the potential migration of the spill, an event that may last a few months to several years. Migration of the spill could be accelerated by storm water runoff, a scenario that may give positive or negative results. The positive results would for the runoff to spread the polluted soil over larger area and speed up the dissipation of the pollutant, the negative results would be for the polluted soil to be washed into ground or underground water sources.



NOTE: The information in this fact-sheet is very general, For in-depth information please contact the following sources at EPA:
Lisa Price at (214) 665-6744 or Vincent Mallot at (214) 665-8313

James L. Colón - September 1999